Capsule Summary

Name of Property:

Fairall Foundry PG:LAU-1-22

MIHP number: Location:

First Avenue

Laurel, Prince Georges County, Maryland 20707

Date of Construction: Circa 1866

Access:

Private (publicly owned but limited access)

Property Description: The Fairall Foundry consists of Buildings 305-307 of the City of Laurel's Fairall Public Works Complex located on First Street adjacent to the CSX (formerly Baltimore and Ohio Railroad) tracks in Laurel, Maryland. As part of the municipal public works facility, the building houses storage space, and its outside yard stores city-owned vehicles, equipment, and fuel tanks. The Fairall Foundry is a 2-story, 3-bay stone masonry structure with several additions, including one 2-story, shed-roofed addition added to the southwestern elevation; one 1-story, side-gabled addition added to the northwestern elevation; and one shed-roofed addition added to the previous addition. Repairs have been made to the roof and masonry walls, and the building is in fair condition. It appears that the stone masonry walls were parged at one time.

Summary Paragraph on History: The Fairall Foundry building was constructed circa 1866 as a foundry and machine works in a strategic location next to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks in Laurel, Maryland. Operated first by a partnership that included Albin M. Bond, Thomas D. Bond, and Artemus Donaldson, the business was subsequently operated by Artemus Donaldson, prior to being sold to Thomas L. Fairall. Fairall operated the Laurel Machine Works until 1892. By 1910, the building was converted to a flour and feed warehouse, operating as the J.R. Jones Feed and Seed Store until 1965. Between 1965 and 1980 the Laurel Metals and Superior Garage and several other businesses occupied the building, and in 1999 the City of Laurel purchased the property, after which it renovated the building to house its Department of Public Works facility.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of F	Property					
historic	Fairall Foundry (preferred)					
other	First Street Foundry					
2. Location						
street and number	First Street r			not for publication		
city, town	Laurel				vicinity	
county	Prince Georges					
3. Owner of	Property					
name	City of Laurel					
street and number	8103 Sandy Sp	ring Road			telephone	(301)725-0088
city, town	Laurel		state	Maryland	zip code	20707
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. lib city, town Laurel tax map tax parcel 5. Primary Location of Additional Data Contributing Resource in National Register District			liber x parcel	12195 folio tax I	D number	
Deterr Deterr Recor Histori Other:	mined Eligible for mined Ineligible fo ded by HABS/HA ic Structure Repo	In Local Historic District the National Register/Marylar or the National Register/Maryla ER rt or Research Report at MHT	and Reg			
6. Classifica	ition					
Categorydistrictbuilding(s)structuresiteobject	Ownership X public private both	Current Function agriculturecommerce/tradedefensedomesticeducationfuneraryX_governmenthealth careindustry	reresctrawui	ndscape creation/culture digion ocial ansportation ork in progress aknown acant/not in use her:		ng Noncontributing

7. Description	Inventory No. PG:LAU-1-22		
Condition			
excellent deteriorated			

Paragraph Summary

good X fair

ruins

X altered

The Fairall Foundry consists of Buildings 305-307 of the City of Laurel's Fairall Public Works Complex located on First Street adjacent to the CSX (formerly Baltimore and Ohio Railroad) tracks in Laurel, Maryland. Constructed circa 1866 by partners Bond and Donaldson for a foundry and machine shop, the business thrived and contributed to Laurel Factory's industry-based economy. Thomas Fairall purchased the property in 1883 and supplied machinery and equipment to the cotton mill as well as to the general public. He operated the machine works until 1892, after which it was converted to J.R. Jones Feed and Seed store in 1910. It thrived until 1965, after which it was sold, and a series of machine shops and garages occupied the building. The foundry building is now owned by the City of Laurel, and it houses the city's main public works complex.

Comprehensive Description

The Fairall Foundry is a 1- and 2-story, side-gabled and shed-roofed, stone masonry structure on the southeastern corner of Little Montgomery Avenue and First Street in Laurel, Maryland. The southeastern elevation faces First Street and the tracks and embankment of the railroad tracks. Currently part of a municipal public works facility, the building serves as a storage area, while the surrounding paved yard serves as parking lot and storage yard for the city's sanitary trucks, other vehicles, and equipment. A detached modern 1-story office building sits southeast of the foundry building.

The foundry building is composed of an original building with three additions that have been added at different times. The additions were appended to the southwestern and northwestern sides of the original building. The original building is a 2-story, 3bay, side-gabled structure of stone masonry. The southeastern gable has been infilled with wood boards, while the northwestern gable has what appears to be aluminum or vinyl siding along the cornice. The northeastern, or main, elevation's first story consists of a central entrance door flanked by 1 window opening on each side. One of the windows contains a 12-light window, and the other has been infilled with stone. This elevation's second story contains 3 windows that have been infilled with concrete block.

The building's southeastern elevation is partially obscured by a fence; however, the openings are visible on its interior. The first story has 1 wide central door with 1 window on each side, with the door covered with plywood and the windows containing metal grates. The second story has a central door and 1 window on each side, all of which have been infilled with concrete block. A 2story, 4-bay stone masonry addition was added onto the southwestern side of the original building. Its roof is now a shed roof, but it may have had a gabled roof at one time. Its construction date is unknown, but it appears to have been added shortly after the construction of the first because of very similar stonework and building techniques. The southeastern elevation faces the railroad tracks and consists of 1 central door and 1 window on each side on the first story. The windows contain glass lights with metal grates in them, and the door has been covered with plywood. The second story contains 2 windows and 1 door, all of which have been infilled with concrete block. The addition's southwestern side contains 4 windows and 1 door on the first story. Three of the windows have been covered with paper, while one has a 12-light glass and a wooden door. The second story of this elevation has 3 windows that have been covered with paper and 1 door that has been covered with plywood. The southwestern elevation's first story has a metal replacement window, and the second story has 2 windows that have been covered with plywood. All windows still retain their wooden lintels. This addition reportedly sustained a fire (date unknown), after which an upper story was removed for safety reasons.

A one-story, side-gabled addition was added onto the northwestern end of the original building (date unknown). Its northeastern, or front, elevation has 1 wide central door and two windows that have been infilled with plywood. The northwestern elevation has 1 central door and 2 window openings that have been infilled with concrete block. A shed-roofed addition, also constructed of stone masonry, was added onto the southwestern side of the addition. The addition's southwestern side contains a garage bay and one door opening.

The interior walls of all of the buildings have exposed stone, with the walls of the original building parged over the stone. The original building has a replaced second floor, with a stairway leading to it, while the southwestern addition has its existing joists but no floor resting on them. The northwestern addition has exposed rafters and beams above the first story. The building and its additions have concrete floors. None of the machinery associated with the foundry remains in the building.

A frame barn previously sat on the lot northwest of the end-gabled addition. It was constructed by Joel R. Jones (possibly in 1910) for storage for the feed store. The barn and the two northwestern stone additions may have been added at the same time.

8. Significance			Inventory No. PG:LAU-1-22		
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below		
1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology architecture art X_commerce communications community planning conservation	economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	health/medicine _X industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government e religion science social history transportation other:	
Specific dates 1866			Architect/Builder		
Construction da	ates 1866				
Evaluation for:					
Na	ational Register	N	Maryland Register	X Not evaluated	

Narrative Discussion of History

General History

8. Significance

The City of Laurel was developed by members of the Snowden family, one of the founding families of Maryland, and their relatives from Attleboro, Massachusetts. Laurel is located on land that was originally patented to Richard Snowden in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in Prince George's County, Maryland. At the time, Snowden's estate already was approximately 3,000 acres in size, extending from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. The 1715 patent increased the already substantial Snowden land holdings, and by 1743 the estate had grown to 9,265 acres.

Although the Laurel area was first an agricultural region, it became a location for manufacturing as early as the first half of the 18th century, distinguishing it from the rest of rural Prince George's County. Manufacturing activity on the Patuxent River dates back to 1736 when the Snowden family established the Patuxent River Iron Works. Almost a century later in 1811, Nicholas Snowden constructed a stone grist mill building on the banks of the Patuxent River as well as a dam across the river at the location of what is now Ninth Street in Laurel. In 1824, a Mr. Johnson leased the Snowden mill, which reportedly employed approximately 100 people at the time, and converted it from a grist mill to a factory for spinning yarns, known as the Cotton Manufacturing Motive of Laurel.

Nicholas Snowden died in 1831, and his estate, Montpelier, was subdivided among his children. His wife received what was called the Bank Quarter, which contained the bank of iron ore. A leftover undivided portion along the Patuxent River, contained approximately 100 acres, the Snowdens' stone mansion, the mill buildings, several log houses, and a well-used farm where successive crops of tobacco and corn had been cultivated. The parcel's location was invaluable because of the exceptional water power provided by the river.

The 1835 completion of the Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) Railroad Company's new railroad line through Laurel, located just over one mile east of the mill, contributed to the attractiveness of the mill location. The railroad, which was to connect Baltimore with Washington D.C., promised easier access to new markets, both for raw materials and finished products. Access to other markets was previously gained by travel from the mill eastward via Main Street to the Washington-Baltimore Turnpike, which was chartered by the state of Maryland in 1812.

The location and easy access to transportation were not lost on Snowden's heirs, which included son-in-law Horace Capron. a member of the Capron family of Attleboro, Massachusetts. On January 28, 1836, Horace Capron joined other family members in a new business venture. Capron, along with Dr. Theodore Jenkins (brother-in-law of Capron and neighbor of the Snowdens at new New Birmingham Manor), Elizabeth Snowden (Capron's mother-in-law), Osmond C. Tiffany (Capron's first cousin from another Attleboro, Massachusetts, family) A.E. Hall, and W.C. Shaw incorporated a new company, the Patuxent Company, for the purpose of manufacturing and selling cotton, iron, and other articles at the site of the mill and farm. Snowden land holdings were combined and transferred when Horace Capron and his wife, Charles Hill and his wife, and Dr. Theodore Jenkins and his wife, conveyed their inherited lands to the Patuxent Company. Deeds for property and stock also were transferred by Osmond Tiffany, Comfort Tiffany, and several Capron cousins, who also were involved in mill activities elsewhere.

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Shortly after its incorporation in 1835, the Patuxent Company constructed housing for its mill workers in the vicinity of the mill. Merchants established stores and businesses to support the employees and their families and the town, known as Laurel Factory, started to grow. The town grew quickly in the middle of the 19th century as businesses, churches, social halls, and schools were established to meet the needs of the fledgling community, first in the western end near the mill, then in locations east of the mill as the town crept eastward along Main Street toward the turnpike and railroad.

According to Thomson's Mercantile and Professional Directory, Laurel Factory, as it was called then, had its own post office by 1851. By that date, there were four dealers in dry goods, groceries, and hardware; two physicians; one hotelkeeper; and one factory, according to the directory.

In 1875, the town of Laurel Factory had been incorporated and its name changed to Laurel. The 1878 Hopkins atlas indicates that by this time the eastern end of the town surrounding the railroad had begun to develop, with larger parcels and houses on the eastern side of the railroad and smaller lots on the track's western side. Lots on both sides of the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike had been subdivided as well. Lots along the northern and southern sides of Main Street had been subdivided and developed with both residences and businesses. By 1888, Laurel was the largest town in Prince Georges County, with electric lights, brick sidewalks, and macadamized roads.

History of Resource

The Fairall Foundry stands on land that was originally patented in 1715 to Richard Snowden as part of "New Birmingham Manor." After the death of his descendent, Nicholas Snowden, in 1831, a large tract known as Lot No. 8 and located between the Baltimore and Washington Turnpike and the Snowden's mill to the west, and between Main Street on the north to a point south of it, was inherited by Nicholas' daughter, Eliza Snowden. Richard Snowden and his wife, Elizabeth, acquired it and subsequently conveyed a large tract to Horace Capron on August 29, 1839 (DB AB 12, P. 367). It appears that Capron had a 610-acre farm and home on the southeastern side of the tract. On May 21, 1850, Horace Capron applied to the State of Maryland for Insolvency and was directed by Orphan's Court to convey his land, household goods, and furniture for \$1.00 to trustees Thomas S. Alexander and George W. Dobbin on April 1, 1850 (DB JJB 6, P. 331). At a public auction on May 21, 1850, the trustees sold the 610-acre parcel to Thomas Wilson of John for \$28,060.00 (DB CSM 1, P. 151).

Thomas Wilson of John named the 610-acre tract "Laurel Farm" and owned it for the next ten years. On November 27, 1861, Thomas Wilson of John and his wife sold Laurel Farm to Thomas Jefferson Talbott for \$27,200.00 (DB 1, P. 27). Thomas J. Talbott sold a 2-acre parcel on the western side of the railroad to Albin M. Bond, Thomas D. Bond and Artemus Donaldson on February 1, 1866, for \$4,666.00 (DB HB 4, P. 734). It was on this parcel, that the new owners, known as Donaldson and Bond, constructed a building for a foundry and machine shop on First Street (originally known as Front Street) adjacent to the railroad tracks circa 1866. Gradually, the partners sold their interest in the business to Artemus Donaldson, with Thomas D. Bond selling off his interest for \$5,200.00 on May 20, 1871 (DB HB 4, P. 734).

Included in the sale of Thomas Bond's interest were stock, merchandise, and tools on the premises. On April 13, 1883, Artemus Donaldson and his wife, Emeline V., sold the 2-acre property for \$2,500.00 to Thomas L. Fairall (DB JWB 1, P. 749). Fairall also owned property at 523 Main Street and was already listed on the 1878 atlas as being the proprietor of the Laurel Machine Works, which might be the same establishment as the Laurel Machine Company in the 600 block of Main Street (first owned and operated by Stephen Heath). His advertisement in the atlas states that he is a machinist who manufactures cotton machinery, pulleys, hangers, shafting, gearings, plows and castings. It appears that the Laurel Machine Company was originally owned and operated by Horace Capron followed by Osmond C. Tiffany then Stephen Heath, and it is possible that Fairall acquired the machine works on Main Street and ran it until he moved his business to a new location on First Street. By that date, Fairall's machine works was not the only one in the city; the 1878 atlas of Laurel indicates another foundry on Main Street near Avondale Street, owned by Truman and Diven. A city directory listed Thomas Fairall as living on Second Street between Main and Montgomery with a wife and a daughter. Other Fairall family members working in Laurel were a carpenter and builder, a news agent, and a laborer.

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Name Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

The Laurel Machine Works conducted much business with the Laurel Factory Mill, first at its previous location, then at its new location on First Street, according to diaries of mill superintendent General George Nye, dated 1877-1885. Business included building looms and other equipment for the mill. The foundry also manufactured cast iron stoves, ornamental ironwork, plumbing equipment, and other castings for the general public. Thomas Fairall operated the machine shop until 1892 when the foundry was closed. It appears that during his ownership, Thomas Fairall constructed a house on the western end of his 2-acre property, now known as 120 Second Street (Surveyed resource PG: LAU-1-10).

After Thomas Fairall's death, his son, William Fairall, inherited the property. Between 1908 and 1910, the building was converted to a flour and feed warehouse. William Fairall sold the property on December 18, 1909 to Ernest Northam (DB 87, P. 121). Northam defaulted on the mortgage several years later, and on October 5, 1912, a public sale was conducted by Charles H. Stanley on behalf of William Fairall. Local landowner and businessman Charles F. Shaffer was the highest bidder and purchased the property for \$3,100.00 (DB 87, P. 121).

After Charles F. Shaffer's death, the parcel was subdivided, and his granddaughter, Myra Shaffer, received the western portion of the lot, Lot 11A, which contained the house at 120 Second Street. The foundry was conveyed to George W. Waters and John R. Jones (date unknown), who ran the G.W. Waters Company. Waters and Jones stored grain and hay on the first floor and operated a shirt factory on the second floor of the building. The G.W. Waters Company eventually specialized in selling agricultural implements, fertilizers, feed, and other supplies. John R. Jones died in 1937, and his son, Joel Russell Jones and his wife, Helen, acquired the property. The business became known as the J.R. Jones Feed & Seed store and the building was occupied until 1965. Sometime after this time a fire occurred in the building, after which it was repaired and occupied by Laurel Metals and Superior Garage.

Following the death of Joel Russell Jones in 1978, the property was inherited by his wife, Helen L. Jones. The city of Laurel leased the building from her circa 1980. In 1986 Helen Jones gave the Power of Attorney to her son Russell Lowery Jones (DB 7111, P. 440). On April 20, 1989, Russell Lowery Jones sold the property to himself and his wife Susan B. Jones (DB 7291, P. 850). Susan B. Jones conveyed her interest in the property to Russell L. Jones two years later on April 3, 1991 (DB 7939, P. 916). On March 12, 1999, Russell Lowery Jones conveyed the property to the Mayor and City of Laurel for \$515,000.00 (DB 12915, P. 56). Prior to the purchase, the City of Laurel announced its intention to demolish the building to provide parking for a new Public Works Department. Following the purchase, concerned citizens who wanted to prevent the building's demolition, formed a community action group called the Friends of First Street Foundry (FFF). FFF addressed long-term goals of restoring the building and including it in Laurel's Main Street Revitalization Area.

In 1998, the FFF received a grant of \$5,250.00 for professional services from the Neighborhood Design Center to develop a restoration and reuse plan. A 1999 grant paid for emergency roof repairs for the building. More renovations occurred in 2003, and the city's public works department is headquartered at the site today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG:LAU-1-22

Capron, Horace. Autobiography. 2 vols., nd, typed copy, Maryland Historical Society.

City of Laurel Department of Public Works. "The Fairall Foundry: A Maryland Treasure with Historical and Architectural Significance."

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington Including County of Prince George Maryland. Philadelphia: F. Bourquin, 1878.

Recorder of Deeds, Prince Georges County Circuit Court. Various deeds from Land Records. Spero, P.A.C. and Company. *Montgomery-Prince Georges Short-term Congestion Relief.* May 1998. Spero, P.A.C. and Company. Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory Form for PG: LAU-1-10.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property
Acreage of historical setting
Quadrangle name

0.5 acre
0.5 acre
Laurel, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 57, Lot 5

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Alison Ross, M.S. Architectural Historian		
organization	KCI Technologies, Inc.	date	05/2008
street & number	5001 Louise Drive	telephone	717-691-1340
city or town	Mechanicsburg	state	PA

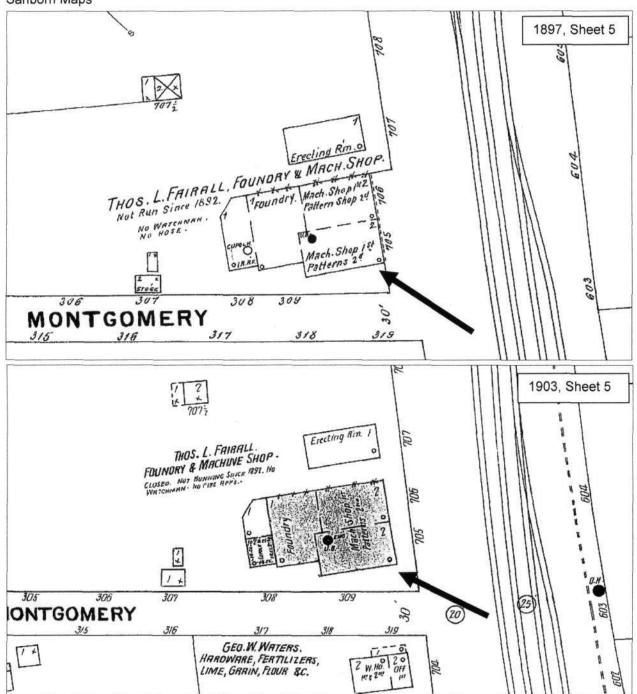
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

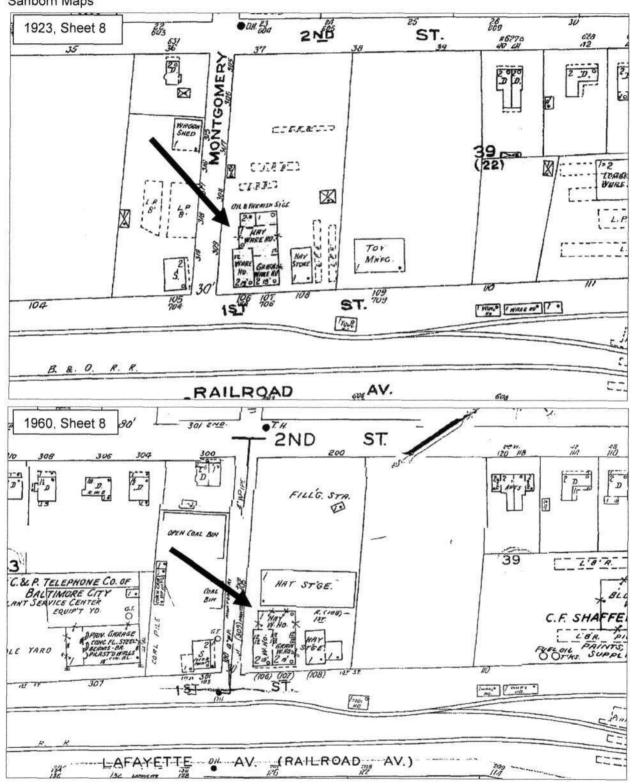
return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Department of Planning 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600

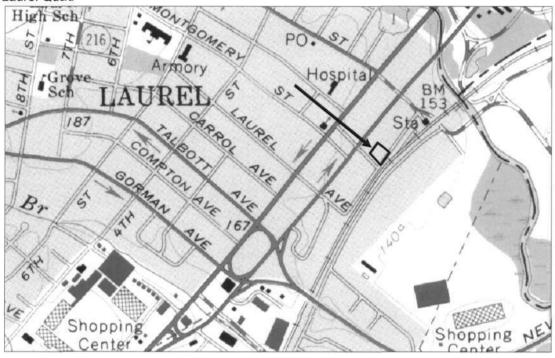
PG:LAU-1-22 Fairall Foundry (First Street Foundry) 161 First Street, Laurel Sanborn Maps



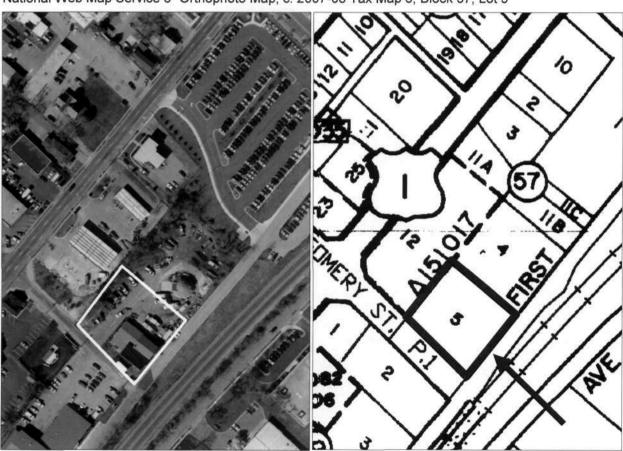
PG:LAU-1-22 Fairall Foundry (First Street Foundry) 161 First Street, Laurel Sanborn Maps

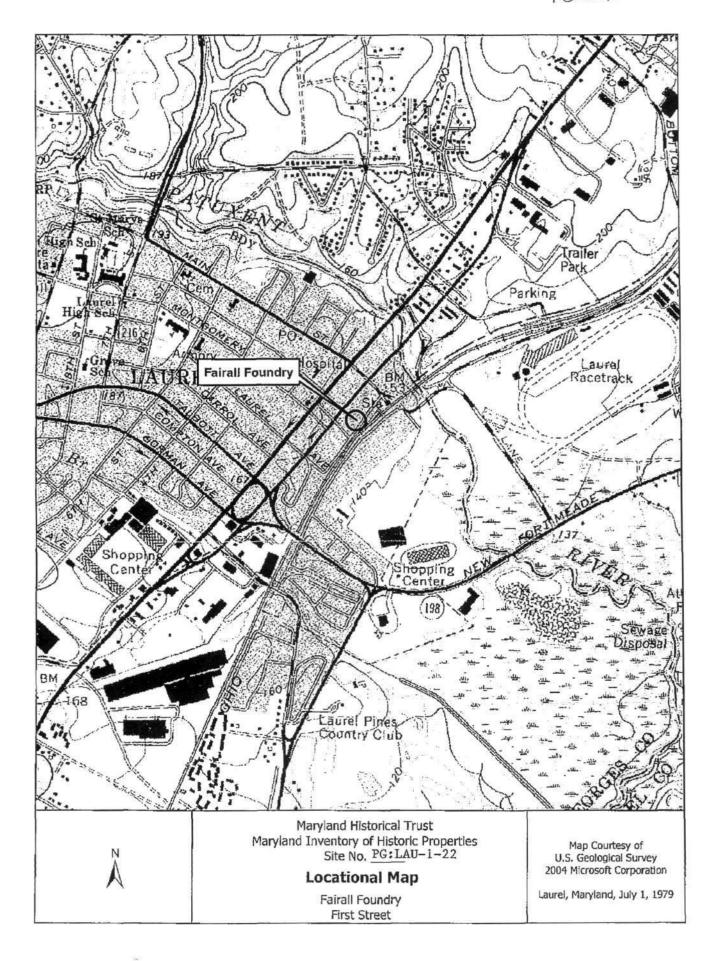


PG:LAU-1-22 Fairall Foundry (First Street Foundry) 161 First Street, Laurel Laurel Quad



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2007-08 Tax Map 6, Block 57, Lot 5





MIHP # PG:LAU-1-22
Fairall Foundary
First Avenue
Laurel, Prince Georges County, Maryland

Photograph Log

Image File Name	Description of View
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_01.TIF	View of resource showing original building and 3 additions, facing east
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_02.TIF	View of resource, showing original building and additions, facing northeast
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_03.TIF	View of resource, showing original building and first addition, facing north
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_04.TIF	View of resource, showing front of original building, facing southwest
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_05.TIF	View of resource, showing front of northwestern addition, facing southeast
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_06.TIF	View of resource, showing end of northwestern addition, facing southeast
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_07.TIF	View of inside of NE wall of original building, facing northeast
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_08.TIF	View of inside of NW wall of original building, facing northwest
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_09.TIF	View of inside of SE wall of original building, facing southeast
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_10.TIF	View of inside of SE wall of southwestern addition, facing southeast
PG;LAU-1-22_2008-09-21_11.TIF	View of inside of NW wall of southwestern addition, facing northwest

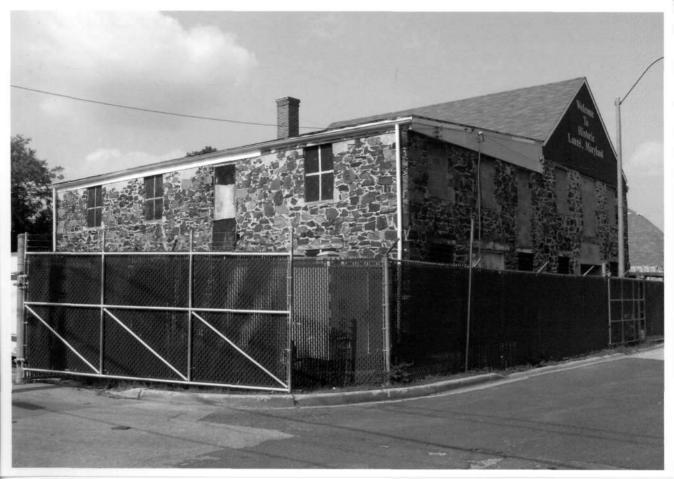
Printed on Epson Premium Photo Paper Glossy with Epson UltraChrome Black Ink



MIHP # PG : LAU-1-00 Fourall Foundry, Laurel H.O. Prince Georges County, MO Alison Ross Sept 2005 MD SHRO View of resource showing original building and 3 additions facing E 1/4



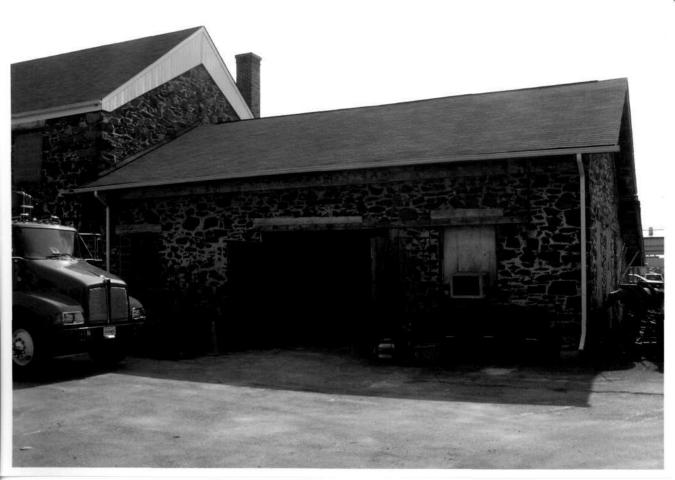
MIHP # PE. LAU-1-99 Fairall Foundry, Laurel Historic District Prince Goorges County 1710 A. Ress Sept Dack mo SHR View of resource showing original body are adolfiers foring NE 2/11



MIHP # PG : LAU - 1-22 Fairall Foundry, Laurel Historic District Prince Georges County, MD A. Ross Sept. 2008 MD SHPO view of resource showing orig bidg + first addition facing N 3/11



MIAP AIR LAU-1-29 Fair ... Fairory, Lourell History District pince Georges county (M) A. Noss Sept 2008 IND SHIR view of record stains there along all blong facing to 4/11



MIHP # PG LAU-1-22 Farrall Foundry, Laurel 40 Prince Georges County, MD A Ross Sept 2008 View of resource showing front of northwestern addition MD SHPO



MIHP # PG: LAU-1-22 Fairall Foundry Laurel HD Prince Georges County, MD Ross Sept 2008 MD SHPO View of resource showing end of north-western addition facing SE 6111



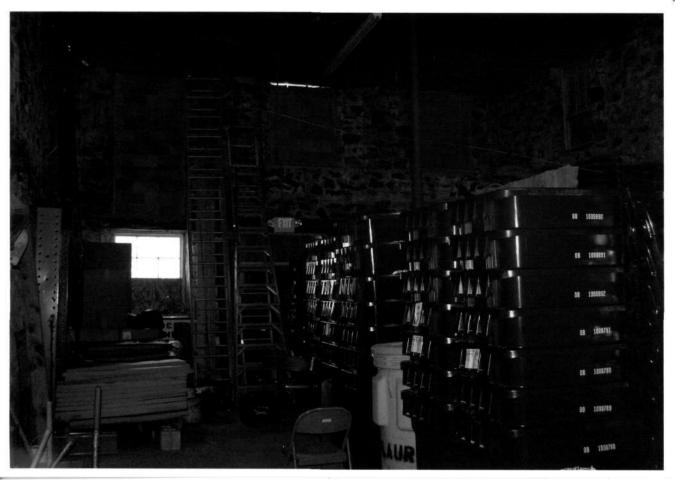
MIHP #PG:LAU-1-22 Fairall Founday Laurel AD Prince Georges County, MD A Ross Sept. 2008 View of inside of NE was at oxiginal bldg foring NE 7/11



MIHP #PG : LAU -1-22 Fairall Foundry, Laurel Historic District Prince Georges County, MD A Ross Sept. 2008 View of inside of NW wall of or ginal blog facing NW 8/11



MIHP # PG : LAU-1-20 Fairall Foundry, Laurel HD Prince Georges county, MD A. Ross Sept. 2008 View of inside of SE wall of original bldg facing SE 9/11



MIHD # 16 LAU-1-52 First Street Fairall Foundry Proce Georges County, and A Ress Sept 2008 MD SHO View of inside of SE well of sethwatern adordon facing SE 10/11



MIHP #PG: LAU-1-22 Fairall Foundry, Laurel Historic District Prince Georges County, MD A. Ross Sept. 2008 MP SAPO view of inside of NW wall of southwestern addition facing NW